



Declining AIDS Mortality in New York City

New York City Department of Health

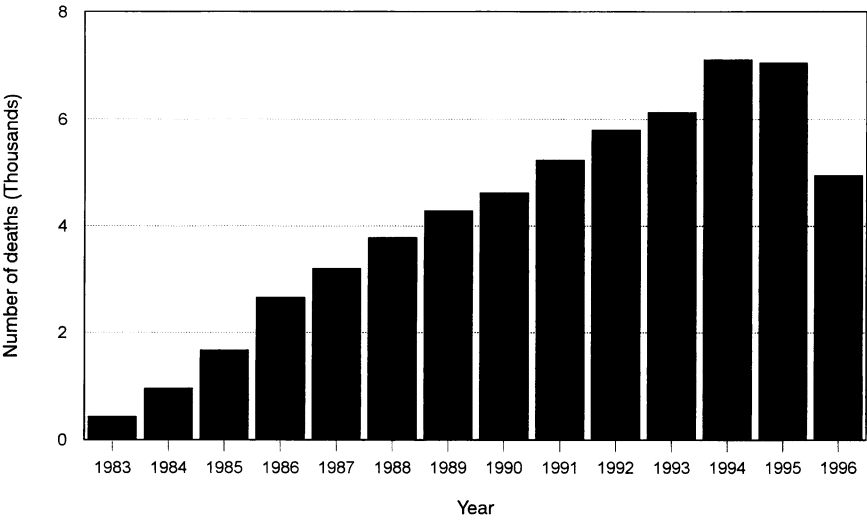
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More than 90,000 people have been diagnosed with AIDS in New York City and more than 60,000 of these have died since the beginning of the epidemic. New York City has only about 3% of the US population but has reported nearly 16% of the nation's AIDS cases. The number of deaths attributed to HIV/AIDS in New York City increased steadily from 425 in 1983 to a high of 7,102 in 1994, reached a plateau in 1995 at 7,046, and then declined sharply in 1996, to 4,944. This decline in mortality occurred in both genders; in blacks, Hispanics, and whites; and in all age groups over 25.

The reasons for the declines are unclear, but a number of factors may be contributing. Median survival after AIDS diagnosis has increased; more-aggressive prophylaxis is being provided for opportunistic infections; and access to medical care and services has improved greatly. Combination therapy with nucleoside analogs and protease inhibitors is also probably contributing to the decline, although the newest drugs did not become widely available until some months into 1996, after AIDS deaths had already begun to drop.

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Deaths from HIV/AIDS, New York City, 1983-1996



Note: For 1983-1986, all AIDS deaths are ICD-9 code 279.1. Beginning in 1987, AIDS is code 042. Other HIV infections are code 043-044. Number for 1996 is provisional.